



Saint Philip Neri School

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School Newsletter

March 3, 2010

Lenten Reflection:

*"In the twilight of life,
God will not judge us
On our earthly possessions
And human successes,
But on how well we have loved"*

- St. John of the Cross

Dear Parents,

Students in grades K through 7th grade will be taking the TerraNova 3 Standardized test next week. This test is a new edition and has many new features. The new version reflects current norms, updated design and content. The types of questions in the test require students to tap into higher level thinking skills and challenge them to solve more in-depth problems. Students are asked to respond **in writing** to questions instead just filling in bubbles. These questions require long and short written answers, and explanations of student work with more problem-solving.

We have been preparing our students for these types of assessments through test questions which require citing evidence for answers, summarizing, comparing & contrasting as well as other high level thinking skills. Another example of test preparation has been in student math journals when they are asked to write about the process of arriving at an answer.

TerraNova 3 is more closely aligned with state tests and also reflects the state standards and the framework of the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The new test is rigorous and more relevant to education in the 21st century. It will be challenging to our students and will require more thinking but the test reflects the skills needed to be a successful learner.

Please encourage your children to get to bed at a reasonable hour, to eat breakfast and to try their best. Be positive and don't apply any unnecessary pressure. Testing will occur first thing each morning when students are most alert. The week of testing is long and some children will struggle with this but again, please encourage them to do their best. Also, look for the flyer detailing the free breakfast offered to any student during this testing week. This free breakfast is provided through Nutritional Development Services of the archdiocese.

Think spring,

Mrs. Annechini

SCHOOL INFORMATION



A REMINDER--

Please submit your **Registration Forms for the 2010-11 Academic year** were due by March 1st. If you have not already done so, please return your form ASAP.

SCHOOL BUSES

Students may *only* ride a school bus if they are scheduled to do so.

Students may only ride a bus in the school district where he or she lives. This includes play dates with children in other school districts. *Although we know that this may sometimes present a problem, we could have our bus privileges taken away if we do not obey this law.*

Please remember - *if Philadelphia Schools are closed*, there is NO transportation for the children coming to St. Philip Neri from Philadelphia. And *in the case of delayed openings*, there is NO transportation from Philadelphia to SPN, but transportation is provided home as usual at the close of the school day.

PLAN TO JOIN US..

On Sunday, March 14th at 7:30 p.m., the Franciscan Mystery Players of Sewell, NJ will visit St. Philip Neri Church for a presentation of *The Way of the Cross*. A group of twelve high school students and four adults offer this dramatic multi-media presentation of the Passion and Death of Our Lord. Through the use of special lighting, inspirational music, drama, and soul-searching meditations, the play becomes a very unique and prayerful vehicle for the Lord's spirit to forgive, heal and renew. It's an exceptional, moving experience that you won't want to miss! No tickets required; a *good will* offering will be taken at the event. *Note: This dramatic portrayal of the Passion and Death of Our Lord may be too intense for children under the age of 10.*

And on Thursday, March 25th.... if Lent is speeding by and you still haven't found that one "thing" then perhaps you might consider attending a lecture and reflection by Sr. Cathy Nerney, S.S.J, PhD, a much sought after and captivating speaker, and the founding director of the Forgiveness and Reconciliation Institute at Chestnut Hill College. Sr. Cathy will convey an emotional and impactful message as she invites each of us to listen to Jesus' story/our story of death and resurrection as it is retold in the lives and language of the people of post genocide Rwanda. She will be speaking at St. Philip Neri Parish at 7:30 in the school hall. Contact Linda Banecker at LindaBaneckerAFF@aol.com for more information. The event is free.

SPRING BOOK FAIR ARRIVES!

The *Book Fair* open this Friday, March 5th and runs through March 11th. You may visit the Book Fair after all masses this Sunday, March 7th. Come take a look and leave with a great book!

PLEASE NOTE

FRIDAY, MARCH 19TH IS NO LONGER A SCHOOL HOLIDAY. SCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION AS A RESULT OF ALL THE SNOW DAYS.

COMMUNICATION EMAIL DISTRIBUTION: To all organizations, please send your event flyers to the following email address by 12:00 PM Tuesday of the week you want the flyer distributed: communicationspn@gmail.com. Please "cc" Mrs. Hunt or Mrs. Annechini.

Also, the weekly Communication Information and the Newsletter are archived on the school website for your convenience

WEATHER EMERGENCY:

- For morning school cancellation or late arrival due to snow or ice, you will be notified by the SPN Emergency Alert system, by the Colonial school district if you reside in their territory or please listen to KYW radio/online or 6ABC TV/online.
- When this situation arises during the school day, you will be notified by the SPN Emergency Alert System, by the Colonial school district if you reside in their territory or listen to KYW radio/online or 6ABC TV/online. During the school day our Emergency Closing Policy will go into effect. The children will be released from the classroom according to the information indicated on their Emergency Form. If your child is a car rider, please go directly to your child's homeroom for pick-up. Do not come to the Main Office. In the event of a weather emergency, we will follow the lead of the school districts

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.**

[SPN THEATRE GROUP PRESENTS...](#)

St. Philip Neri Theatre Group presents **"Guys and Dolls"** on **March 19th – 21st**. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this great production. Play times are 7:30pm for Friday and Saturday with a 2pm matinee on Sunday. Check the flyer in this week's Communication envelope for information on being a Patron. Over 80 SPN students are participating in this production!

[FROM THE HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION](#)

ST. PHILIP NERI CHURCH

Order Deadline Extended due to popular demand!

What is "The Cat's Meow Village"?

A replica (3 1/2"H x 8"W) keepsake in wood of our Church.

Truly a one-of-a-kind item; includes message on the back of the keepsake.

\$25 each and proceeds benefit SPN Home & School Association.

SAMPLE on display in church office.

Order forms available in church and school offices.

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

BINGO NIGHT!

Join us this Friday, March 5th. Doors open at 6pm and the event runs until 9pm. The kitchen will be open! Plenty of fun prizes so plan to join us.

[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.

[FROM THE WOMEN'S GUILD](#)

DONUT WEEKEND!

This Saturday, March 6th and Sunday, March 7th

Delicious, Suzy-Jo glazed doughnuts will be sold after all the Masses in the church foyer for \$9.00 dozen. All proceeds will benefit our church & school.

No need to pre-order...first come, first served!

Volunteers are needed to sell after all the Masses

Contact Mary Pichola (mhpichola@comcast.net) or Deanna Marrone (dmdm31796@aol.com).

COVERED DISH!

All women of the parish are welcome to join us on Thursday, March 12th for the annual event Covered Dish dinner. Evening will begin at 7pm in the cafeteria. See the flyer in this week's communication for more information.

[FROM THE WILLIAM JEANES LIBRARY](#)

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to our Open Mic Coffeehouse on Sunday, March 7, from 6-8 pm. If you choose to share your talent (music, poetry, magic, etc.), it's only \$3. Non-performers pay \$5. All-you-can-eat snacks are included in the entrance cost. Sign up at the door if you want to perform.

The library now has two Saturday story times each month. Children ages 3-5 will enjoy stories, songs/poetry and a craft. Upcoming dates are March 13th and March 27th – both at 10:15 am.

Children ages 3-7 are invited to our monthly bedtime story time on March 23rd at 7 pm. They can wear their pajamas.

“Mr. B” (David Beckman) is returning to Jeanes Library to conduct his famous Book Clubs! Those of you who attended one or more of the book clubs in the past years can vouch for the wonderful time you had. Pass the word to others! For those who were

too young or never were able to come, this is your chance: Sunday, March 28th, 3-4:30 pm -- recommended for children ages 6-10, but others are welcome. Mr. B is an elementary school teacher, tutor and children's literature enthusiast. During the Book Club there will be games, puppets, read-alouds, puzzles, art, etc. With Mr. B, you never know what fun he has up his sleeve! Help Mr. B in his planning by signing up in advance (610-828-0441).

Remember, we are at a new location – 2391 Harts Lane



ON THE CALENDAR

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|-------------|------------------------------------------------|
| March 4 | Terra Nova testing begins |
| March 5 | Bingo Night Book Fair Opens |
| March 12 | Covered Dish |
| March 19-21 | SPN Theatre Group presents "Guys and Dolls" |
| March 23 | Report Cards Issued |

THE NEXT ISSUE

Saint Philip School Newsletter is published bi-weekly during the academic year. Our next issue is Wednesday, March 17th. Please forward all items for the next issue to Katie Shields at embrians@comcast.net by March 14th.