



Saint Philip Neri School

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www.saintphilipnerschool.com

School Newsletter

September 23, 2009

Dear Parents,

Does homework have more than the obvious value of linking home and school? Its immediate purpose is to reinforce the skills and understandings learned in school in a particular day. But used correctly, it can also develop lasting character traits that will serve your child now and in years to come.

After you have provided your child with an appropriate study area and arrived at the best time for homework, it is time for you to “back off.” The responsibility for completing the homework belongs to the student. Self-reliance and self-confidence will grow as your child accepts the idea that he or she can and must use time management skills and individual initiative to complete homework assignments. Your interest in the finished work is most welcome, but the work itself is not your responsibility.

As children grow toward adulthood, they need opportunities to make independent decisions, to demonstrate their resourcefulness in dealing with problems, and to become self-reliant. We do them no favor when we “do” for them what they should accomplish themselves. The consequences that result from work well-done (or ill-prepared) belong to the student. A positive sense of self-worth is not something we can hand to children. It must be built from within through experiences in self-management and acceptance of responsibility.

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.

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES are posted on the diocesan website, www.catholicschools-phl.org, under Elementary Education for your convenience.

EMERGENCY CARDS and EMERGENCY RELEASE FORMS

Important information for your child's safety are the Emergency cards and your child's Emergency Release Form which are to be completed and returned to school with your child **tomorrow**. The information on these forms is most important to the safety and well-being of your child. Please complete the forms carefully and accurately. The EMERGENCY CARD information is kept on file in the office in the event of an emergency and the EMERGENCY RELEASE FORM is retained by the classroom teacher. We must have specific information to reach you in time of need.

- **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.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION: The majority of communication issued by the school is distributed through an email system. Please register your email address on the school website to ensure that you will receive this important information. All communication is sent out to parents on Wednesday primarily through the email distribution but also through a biweekly newsletter or the communication envelope. Newsletter and the information contained in each week's email distribution can be found on the school website under the Communication tab.

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.

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.

HANDBOOK ADDITIONS

Uniform Policy includes:

Girls:

- Skirts may be no shorter than 2” above the knee and may not be rolled at the waist.
- Ripped and pinned hems must be repaired.
- Socks: navy blue (solid color) knee socks, tights or crew socks. Ripped tights must be replaced.

Boys: May wear the golf shirt with long pants. School shoes (not sneakers) must be worn.

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.

THE SPN SURVIVAL GUIDE for new families can be found on the school website. The Enrollment Committee organized this guide to help school families with the routine day to day questions that families might have regarding school activities.

FALL BOOK FAIR IS COMING SOON!

The Fall Book Fair will open on Friday, October 2nd. Lots of volunteers are needed – before, during, and after the fair. Please contact Miss Sullivan (gsullivan@saintphilipnerschool.com or 610-828-3176) if you can help. More

information about the Fair will be coming home with your child, through the communication envelope, or click on the link below.

http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/saintphilipnerschool_lh

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM- SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you for taking the time to complete our survey at the end of last year. Overall, we saw a number of the same suggestions/comments.

- ❖ All meals are pre-packaged for food safety and easy service. They are heated in a convection oven – we **do not microwave** any meals. The packages are made of cardboard with flip top lids (chicken nuggets, tenders, patties and pizza) or plastic covers.
- ❖ Lunch is intended to provide children with 1/3 of the calories, vitamins, and minerals they need for the day. Fat is kept low by offering low or no-fat milk. Only 100% juice is served. Whole grains are used whenever possible.
- ❖ Milk and juice are included in the price of hot lunch.
- ❖ For children not buying lunch, milk and juice will be offered this Fall. Regular and flavored water will also be sold to children in the upper grades.
- ❖ Milk can be served up to 7 days past the expiration day. We rotate our milk to ensure it is being served before the expiration date.
- ❖ Fruits and vegetables are included in the items being offered. We encourage the children to take one, if not all. Some of the selections available are bagged apple slices, bagged baby carrots, oranges, apples, and fresh sliced kiwi. We also offer applesauce, mixed fruit cups, peaches, and jello.
- ❖ We have gotten to know the student's favorite meals, but like to try new things and encourage the children to try it as well. The children have told us they were surprised how good the new meal was.
- ❖ Regarding an item not being available (ran out) for the upper grades, this has occurred on Pot Luck days. We offer 3-4 different selections and it's first come, first serve.

SPOTLIGHT ON--

Our speech therapist is **Mrs. Wendy Block**, who has been with us for more than 20 years. She works with children to improve their articulation (pronunciation,) language skills, fluency (stuttering,) and voice. Mrs. Block is routinely asked to screen students when teachers or parents notice a possible problem. Articulation errors such as distortions of the

"s" and "r" sounds are common among children until age 8, when all sounds should be developed. Speech therapy for these sounds begins in third grade. Children can be referred for screenings at any time. Screenings are an informal process where children speak to the therapist for a few minutes. If further evaluation is indicated, Mrs. Block will contact the parents.

Mrs. Young is the MCIU counselor assigned to St. Philip Neri. She has been employed with the MCIU for four years and is happy to be returning to SPN for her fourth year. Mrs. Young is at our school on Tuesdays this year and is available to meet with students for individual counseling sessions focusing on academic and personal needs. She also leads small group sessions and teaches classroom developmental guidance lessons addressing the diverse needs of the students.

Ms. Catherine Glatz, (Grade 1), is a graduate of La Salle University (2000) with a B.A. in Communication. Prior to entering the field of education, she spent three years as a marketing/special events coordinator. Ms. Glatz received her Elementary Education certification through Gwynedd-Mercy College's Master Teacher Program. She is currently pursuing my Masters degree in Reading with Reading Specialist certification.

In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, reading, art, the beach, and spending time with family and friends. She is also a huge country music fan and the Phillies are her favorite hometown team to root for! She is very happy for the opportunity to teach 1st grade at St. Philip Neri and look forward to sharing in her students' educational and spiritual growth.

JOIN READING OLYMPICS

Reading Olympics is a celebration of reading open to students in Grades 5 through 8.

Registration is now open, but will end on September 30th. For more information, please look at the Library's website --

<http://teacherweb.com/PA/SaintPhilipNeriLafayetteHill/Library/t.stm>.

If you have any questions, please contact Miss Sullivan. Hard copies of Reading Olympics book lists and contracts have been sent home through the communication envelope.

FROM THE HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Save the Date!

SPN will host "Dueling Pianos" on Saturday, October 10th to benefit the Maureen Minetti Scholarship Fund. Contact Jeff Minetti at 610/564-1882 or by email at maureenminettifund@gmail.com for tickets and additional information.

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.

FROM THE CYO

CYO Basketball Registration for students in grades 5 – 8 will take place in the school lobby from 7pm – 8:30pm on Wednesday, September 30th and Thursday, October 1st. Registration fee is \$75. A \$15 late fee will be added after October 31st. Contact Brian Shields at brianpshields@yahoo.com for additional information.

FROM WILLIAM JEANES LIBRARY

Reading Round-up will be held on Mondays, October 5-November 9 from 3:45-4:45 pm. Because this is such a popular program, there a lottery system will be used to choose participants. You can sign your child up for the lottery from Monday, September 8th through Sunday, September 20th. A parent/guardian must sign their child up in person. Winners will be informed by September 23rd. For those of you new to *Reading Roundup*, this is a reading buddy program for children in grades K-2. They are partnered with a teen/preteen (grades 6-12). We enjoy a small snack first and then the children are assigned partners. The goal is a one-on-one situation. If you have a friend/child in grades 6-12, please have them contact Beth Hargis, Youth Services Librarian (bhargis@mclinc.org / [610-828-0441](tel:610-828-0441)) to volunteer. They need not attend all 6 weeks, but that is preferable. Children in grades K-2 must commit to attending all 6 weeks, barring illness. For more information, contact “Miss Beth.” This is a FREE program because of the generous sponsorship of the Friends of the Library.

Children 2 ½-5 years are invited to “Penguins for Little People” on Friday, September 25th, at 10:30am for a special storytime featuring the “One Book Every Young Child” selection: *If You Were a Penguin* by Wendell and Florence Minor. There will be lots of fun activities and each family represented can take home a FREE copy of the book in paperback. Please help us plan by signing up in advance.



ON THE CALENDAR

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| September 26 | Women's Guild Flea Market in SPN cafeteria |
| September 27 | "Team Jacqueline" run/walk benefiting cancer research at CHOP |
| September 27-29 | Forty Hours Devotion |
| September 30 | Reading Olympics forms due
SPN Gear Order forms due |
| October 2 | Fall Book Fair Opens |
| October 10 | Dueling Piano Benefit for the Maureen Minetti Scholarship Fund |
| October 23 | Fall Festival |
| 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, October 7th. Please forward all items for the next issue to Katie Shields at embrians@comcast.net by October 5th.

