



Saint Philip Neri School

3015 Chestnut Street, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

School Phone Number: (610) 828-3082

School Fax Number: (610) 828-2943

www.saintphilipnerschool.com

School Newsletter

September 9, 2009

Dear Parents,

As the days of summer now fade and a new school year begins, many families return to a very hectic, busy schedule of school and sports activities...plus homework! It takes time to get in the groove and it may be a good idea to make a plan to start this school year calmly.

A simple plan that is thoughtfully planned and followed can provide a family atmosphere that is less hectic and infinitely more life-giving for your child. A few ideas to consider:

- Set up routines for your child including a regular time and quiet place for homework; regular physical activity, especially time for “free play”; healthy meals; and a regular bedtime that ensures enough sleep for your child and some quiet time for yourself.
- Be selective with extracurricular activities for your child. Children can become exhausted and overwhelmed if they are “booked” every minute of the day. You will find that cutting back can greatly ease that feeling of always being rushed. School work should be the priority and a child should not be stressed about competing responsibilities.
- Don’t feel pressured to provide material things for your child. What your child really needs is a loving parent who has time and energy.
- Never underestimate the power of the family meal. Try to eat as many meals together as a family as you can. Important conversations take place during these times!
- Make time to sit down with your child and listen to what your child is saying. It need only be for a few minutes, but you will be amazed at how much you learn about your child by simply taking the time to listen.

If you commit to starting the school year calmly and with a plan, your child will benefit and the entire family will too!

Mrs. Annechini

SCHOOL INFORMATION



A warm welcome to our **new teacher** for the 2009/10 Academic Year—

- Mrs. Catherine Glatz, Second grade

Thank you for joining the SPN community and helping to guide and teach our children.

EMERGENCY CARDS and EMERGENCY RELEASE FORMS

Important information for your child's safety are the **E**mergency 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.

STUDENT TEXTBOOKS: Unfortunately for Pennsylvania schools, the budget stalemate in Harrisburg is causing a delay in funding for textbooks. Until the legislature agrees on a new state budget, the delivery of workbooks and our new reading series in grades 3-5 will be delayed. We may not receive books until October or November.

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.

C.A.R.E.S., the after school program, will start next **Monday, September 14**. Any student in the school is eligible for this service. If you are interested, please request a registration form from the main office and return it with the registration fee. The fee enables you to use the program any time during the school year.

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.

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.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM will start in October. More information will be forthcoming. If you think your family may qualify for a free or reduced priced meal, applications are available in the main office.

A JOB WELL DONE!

Thank you all who participated in the Caitlin's Closet Tag Day. A total of \$330.00 was collected to help Caitlin Wright ship our SPN shirts and other uniform items to her uncle, Ted Wright in Zambia, Africa. The SPN donated uniforms were delivered in June to the Wright family home in Middletown, CT by the McCreavy's. The uniforms will leave from the Boston Harbor by ocean container ship at the end of September and take approximately four months to arrive in Zambia. Caitlin, a senior at Mercy High School part of the Hartford, CT diocese is an inspiration to us all for her great service work.

A special thanks from Camille McCreavy to all those parents and students who helped sort, fold and box uniforms: Parents- Ellie Keenan, Fran Kelly, Peggy McBride, Beth Morris and Cathy Sabia Students- Lauren Coscia, Olivia Delone, Mary Kate Keenan, Darby McEleney, Keelin McEleney, Cate McCreavy, Claire McCreavy, Catherine Morris, Katie Robertson, Kelly Sabia and Alison Spinelli.

NEW BENCH FOR OUR PLAYGROUND

Fourth Grade 2008-2009 Jr. Girl Scout Troop 767 has donated \$300.00 to SPN for the purchase of a bench for the new playground. The donation is the result of the spring Girl

Scout Cookie Sale. Troop members are: Lauren Coscia, Gabrielle Cromley, Kaela Dudek, Yasmin Khan, Katie Kelly, Cate McCreavy, Maura McEleney, Caitin McKeever and Alison Nowak. Thank you to all for supporting the Annual Girl Scout Cookie Sale.

Camille McCreavy and Lisa Cosia - Troop Leaders.

FROM THE HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Coming Soon

The annual *Sally Foster Wrapping Paper and Gifts* sale will begin soon. Please support this important fundraiser while also purchasing some quality products.

Save the Date!

SPN will host “*Dueling Pianos*” on Saturday, October 10th to benefit the Maureen Minetti Scholarship Fund. Additional information coming soon.

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

Best of luck to our Fall sports teams as they begin competition! SPN students are competing in-

Varsity Soccer
JV and Varsity Field Hockey
JV and Varsity Volleyball
Cross Country
JV and Varsity Football (with St. Genevieve’s)
JV and Varsity Cheerleading (with St. Genevieve’s)

GO SAINTS!

THANK YOU

Special thanks to Tom Higgins, Tom Myers and Mike Quarino for their help in lining the field for our fall sporting events.

FROM WILLIAM JEANES LIBRARY

Fall Programs include –

A Bedtime Storytime will be held on **Tuesday**, September 15, at 7 pm. Children ages 4-7 are invited to come in pajamas and enjoy some fun stories.

Used Booksale on September 12 and 13 at the library sponsored by the Friends of the Library. There will be items for children and adults.

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

September 11	Mini-golf outing – grades 5-8
September 15	Back to School Night – Pre-K to grade 5
September 17	Back to School Night – Grades 6 – 8
October 10 th	Dueling Piano Benefit for the Maureen Minetti Scholarship Fund
November 14 th	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, September 23rd. Please forward all items for the next issue to Katie Shields at embrians@comcast.net by September 20th.

