



Saint Philip Neri School

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School Newsletter

January 20, 2010

Dear Parents,

On January 31st, we will begin our annual observance of Catholic Schools Week, the time set aside each year to celebrate what makes Catholic education special. We take this time to reflect on the high-quality, faith-focused, values-added education that we offer and to remind our entire community of the vital contribution we make to education and the quality of life.

Please join in our Catholic Schools Week celebration. We begin the week with an Opening Liturgy on Monday, February 1, at 10:00 AM honoring all those people who serve our country in the military, our community as public servants and our school as volunteers. Please join us! On Tuesday, visit the classrooms during our open house, meet with the teachers and students, and congratulate them on their accomplishments. Encourage friends who may be considering Catholic education for their children to visit our school during this time. A snack bag service project, a spelling bee and an assembly on Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad are some of the highlights of this special week. Please watch for the Catholic Schools Week flyer in the coming weeks.

Many of you, like me, see the wonderful reality of Catholic education every day at our school. It's in the dedication and integrity of our teachers, staff and everyone else involved in running St. Philip Neri School. It's in the hard work and accomplishments of our students who, day by day, are learning and growing in the Lord and gaining a values-filled education. It is in the commitment of our parents and volunteers who give selflessly of their time and talents to help make our school excellent.

Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education and Saint Philip Neri School.

Mrs. Annechini



SCHOOL INFORMATION

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

This week highlighting the special experience that Catholic Schools give to our children runs from January 31st to February 5th. An opening liturgy on Monday, February 1st will kick off a week full of great activities. Please consult the flyer coming home in the Communication Envelope for a complete listing of events.

SPN OPEN HOUSE DATES SET

Tell your family and friends about the St. Philip Neri School Open Houses scheduled as a part of Catholic Schools week. The dates and times are:

- Sunday, January 31 Pre-K – 8th 9:00 – 12:00 pm
 - Tuesday, February 2 Pre-K – 8th 9:00 – 11:00 pm
- All parents are welcome to attend.

Admission applications for the 2010-2011 school year are now being accepted.

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all for your contributions to the *Haitian relief effort* through Tag Day last week. We raised \$2,100 which was sent on to Catholic Relief Services.

Also, on behalf of SPN Student Council, please accept our thanks for your support of their Christmas Garland fundraiser benefiting *St. Mary Children's Home* in Ambler. \$880 was raised.

PLEASE NOTE

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

DID YOU KNOW...

Bring the Underground Railroad Alive for your Children

On February 4th, students in grades 1-8 will enjoy a performance of "Are You Ready My Sister," a story about Harriet Tubman and her work with the Underground Railroad. To help students get the most from this experience, it would be great if they realize that they are living in an area that played an active role in the Underground Railroad. If you have

the opportunity, you might want to drive by the three properties listed below that were key *stations* along the route.

O The **Maulsby Home**, (last house on Germantown Pike at intersection of Butler Pike - diagonal from Plymouth Meeting Friends), owned by abolitionist Samuel Maulsby. It was a major "station" and important safe house for escaping slaves. Slave hunters threatened to burn it down but it is still standing -- basically, unchanged -- for the past 280 years.

O **Abolition Hall** (4006 Butler Pike), anti-slavery meeting hall built in 1856 by George Corson, a noted Quaker and one of the founders of the Plymouth Meeting Anti-Slavery Society. Many nationally-known abolitionist speakers were guests here and local anti-slavery advocates met to plan strategy and rally support. The original farm house, built in 1795, had long been a station on the Underground Railroad. The buildings are on the National Historic register and a marker on site notes their significance.

O **Linden Grove** (last house on Ridge Pike at intersection of Spring Mill Road) - owned by abolitionist Peter Dager, owner of a local marble quarry who worked as a conductor with the Corson family. He housed many slaves and had to warn them to stay away from his front windows that were visible to those searching for run-aways.

Plymouth Meeting was the nearest point on the Underground Railroad to Philadelphia. Fugitive slaves received a supportive and sympathetic welcome from the Quakers and free blacks in the area. Slave holding was condemned in 1754 by the Society of Friends and so it is not surprising that there were very few slaves in Plymouth and Whitemarsh Townships. In 1785 there were 2 slaves in Whitemarsh and none in Plymouth; in the entire County of Montgomery there were 108. By 1810 there were only 3 slaves in the county and by 1830 only 1.

Harriet Tubman, the celebrated "conductor" of the Underground Railroad was in Philadelphia on many occasions. She was born a slave in Maryland, escaped and came to Philadelphia where she found employment. She traveled from Philadelphia to the South seeing passengers on the railroad.

Thank you to the Historical Society of Montgomery County for helping to gather this information.

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.**

[FROM THE HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION](#)

TRIVIA NIGHT 7 IS SOLD OUT!

Over 450 participants will compete for the coveted title of "SPN Trivia Night Champion." Thank you for supporting this terrific annual fundraiser. We're looking forward to a spectacular evening! Be sure to arrive on time! Doors open at 6:30pm.

SPN Trivia Night continues to be powered by McM Entertainment (www.McMEnt.net)

PLAN TO JOIN US FO THE ANNUAL SPN FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE!

Make a date with your favorite “Little Lady – or Ladies” and join us on Friday, February 5th for the Father-Daughter Dance. Doors open at 7pm with dinner available from 7:30-8:30pm. The evening concludes at 10pm. **\$30 per family if space reserved by January 22nd**. After that date, cost increases to \$45 per family. Evening also includes DJ entertainment by Bill McMenamin and photo of each family. Fill out the form included in the Communication envelope and return to Linda Pizzi, c/o Alexandra Pizzi, grade 4, room 13 – And, don’t forget flowers!

SUPER BOWL HOAGIE SALE IS BACK!

Our annual Hoagie Sale benefiting the Home and School Association will be held on Sunday, February 7th. Turkey and Italian hoagies will be available for \$5 each. Pre-orders are requested. Please fill out the order form in the Communication envelope and return it by February 3rd. Volunteers are needed to make the hoagies on Saturday, February 6th as well as Sunday morning. If you can help out, please contact Greg Sutcliffe at 610/825-5287 or Jim Marino at 215/487-7471 (or bsturtle@comcast.net)

FROM THE CYO

SPRING SPORTS SIGN-UPS

Registration for Baseball, Softball and Track and Field will be held on February 1st, 2nd and 3rd from 6:30pm – 8 pm each evening in the Main Entrance lobby. The following information applies to each sport –

- Baseball – open to grades 5 – 8; Registration fee \$75
- Softball – open to grades 5 – 8; Registration fee \$75
- Track and Field – open to grade 4 – 8; Registration fee \$30

Please make every effort to sign your child up on one of these evenings if they plan to participate in a spring sport.

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 WILLIAM JEANES LIBRARY

Children in grades 1-6 are encouraged to participate in the library’s annual book writing contest. Entries are due by February 12th. The “book” is actually a fictional short story which can, but does not need, to be illustrated. Winners receive a bookstore gift card. First and second place winners have their stories included in a volume that becomes part of the library’s book collection and also get a copy of their story bound in a beautiful hardback edition. Specific instructions can be picked up at the library. The instructions can also be downloaded from the library’s website, www.jeaneslibrary.org.



ON THE CALENDAR

January 31	Catholic Schools Week Opens Open House from 9am – 12 noon
February 1	Catholic Schools Week – Opening Liturgy (10am) CYO Sign-ups
February 2	Open House 9am – 11am CYO Sign-ups
February 3	CYO Sign-ups
February 5	Father/Daughter Dance
February 7	Hoagie Sale

THE NEXT ISSUE

Saint Philip School Newsletter is published bi-weekly during the academic year. Our next issue is Wednesday, February 3rd. Please forward all items for the next issue to Katie Shields at embrians@comcast.net by February 1st.