



Saint Philip Neri School

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School Newsletter

November 18, 2009

Dear Parents,

For your information, we have not received a definite date yet for the distribution of the H1N1 vaccine but will get the date to you as soon as we receive notification.

Something new and exciting is coming to SPN!! We will be unveiling our new website this week, so don't think you have the wrong school when you go online for information. A few things still need to be added but the new site is ready for unveiling. I would like to thank Noel Abromavage and Jim Zamichieli, a SPN alum, for their efforts and technical support in creating this new website. Another big thank you to Dave Schanes who was the webmaster for our old site for the past seven years and the time he devoted to it. It is through the tireless efforts of so many people that Saint Philip Neri is able to maintain its excellent technology reputation.

Just a word about "forgotten items," the poster board, homework assignment, textbooks or sports uniform left at home. As I observe the parade of parents bringing forgotten items into school, I will offer a good rule of thumb for parents to follow. Ask yourself if being without the item (other than eye glasses), and receiving the consequence, will affect only your child or others beyond him/her. If the forgotten item is needed for a small group presentation or for a team's success then you can (*once*) consider bringing it to school if you want to do so. However (and this occurs far more often), if the only person who will "suffer" is your child, I urge you not to make the trip to school even if you can. You are caring parents and many times don't mind but ask yourself these other questions. What message are you giving your child? Is it your responsibility or your child's to remember the needed items? How are they going to learn this virtue if they can not practice it? The lesson learned by your children will be far more valuable than any points lost or demerit given!

We have so many blessings to be thankful for as a school community. Let us take the time next week as we celebrate Thanksgiving to give thanks to the Lord for His love and the many gifts He bestows upon all of us. Have a wonderful holiday and enjoy your time with family and friends.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Mrs. Annechini



SCHOOL INFORMATION

OPEN HOUSE

Saint Philips' will host an Open House today, Wednesday, November 18th from 9:30am – 11am and from 7pm – 9pm. Registration for the next academic year will be available for new families.

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.

Electronic Communication

In order to facilitate our weekly communication in a timely manner we have decided that the deadline for submitting any information will be Tuesdays at noon and there will be **no exceptions**.

TUITION ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR PHILADELPHIA RESIDENTS:

Tuition assistance for Philadelphia residents is available through the Children's Scholarship Fund. The easiest and quickest way for families to submit an application is online at www.csphiladelphia.org. The scholarship requirements remain simple. To be eligible, families must: meet income requirements, be residents of Philadelphia, have a child entering grades K-8th and complete the required essay. The applications deadline is March 1st 2010. Families who are awarded scholarship opportunities will be notified by mail in mid-March.

SCRIP

For your convenience, Scrip can once again be obtained through school! We don't sell it directly but on Tuesdays you can submit a scrip order through school and it will be returned to you through your student. Forms are available on the website. SCRIP is also sold after Masses on Sunday.

DID YOU KNOW...

“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.

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

Help is needed with stuffing the weekly Communication envelopes on Wednesday mornings from 8:15am to approximately 9am. Please contact Michele Abiuso at AbiusoPHL@aol.com if you can help.

TUTORING AVAILABLE

Certified elementary teacher available for your child's educational needs.

- Several years of teaching and tutoring experience
- Flexible hours daytime and evening
- Conveniently located in Lafayette Hill area.

For more information, please contact Kim Condon at 610-825-6236 or kimberlycondon@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS IQ

Where did the tradition of putting a Christmas crèche in our homes originate? Discover the answer and listen with new ears to the sounds and symbols of Advent and Christmas at our Advent/Christmas celebration **Do You Hear What I Hear?** Come and join in the family fun! Make crafts, meet surprise visitors, sing songs, and enjoy social time and refreshments while celebrating the true meaning of Christmas. If you have young

children you won't want to miss this!. Contact Joan Gallagher (215-233-4704), Bobby Cefaratti (610-828-5363) or Linda Banecker (610-828-0344) by November 22 to register. Best deal in town....only \$10 per FAMILY!

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.**

STUDENTS HAVE A BLAST AT PHYSICS ASSEMBLY

The roar of a jet engine could be heard in the SPN cafeteria on November 10th. Students in grades 1 – 8 saw science lessons come to life at the *Physics is Fun* assembly. All students attended a 45-minute program that demonstrated some basic laws of physics as well as the inventions of notable scientists. Each class then returned to the cafeteria for 40 minutes of "hands on" workstations, which featured activities dealing with inertia, air pressure, transference of energy and other areas of scientific interest. This assembly was funded by money raised through Home and School activities.

A special *thank you* to the following volunteers who staffed the hands-on workstations: Lauren Amoroso, Cindy DeGeorge, Ursula deLuca, Ellie Dishler, Patty Dowling, Michelle Gollapalli, Teresa Keller, Debbie Kochanasz, Maria Machuca, Marianne

McLaughlin, Lori Moore, Susan Murphy, Nancy Pease, Linda Pizzi, and Cathy Zonies. The day would not have been possible without your help!

FROM THE HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SPN VENDOR FAIR

Our second annual vendor fair will be held on Sunday, December 6th from 5pm – 8pm. If you are a business owner with a commodity to sell, this is the place to be. Contact Terri McHugh at Twhitemcq@aol.com or Deanna Marrone at dmdm31796@aol.com for more information.

FROM THE CYO

CONGRATULATIONS – SPN Varsity Soccer!

Our varsity soccer team won the Region 21 Championship defeating Visitation BVM by a score of 1-0. The team advanced to the Archdiocesan Tournament but fell to St. Ephraim 3-1. Congratulations on a great season!

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

SPN Holiday Vendor Fair is Sunday, December 6th from 5pm-8pm. "*Don't be caught on the outside looking in*" purchase your tickets in advance to be entered into a drawing for dinner for Two at the Great American Pub. Ticket Price - \$10.00 (includes wine, light fare, soft drinks plus two chances to win at the tombola table)! To purchase tickets please send money to Deanna Marrone c/o Alicia grade 8, room 17.

FROM THE WILLIAM JEANES LIBRARY

The library will be hosting a book fair at Barnes and Noble on Saturday, December 5th. There will be fun activities all day so be sure to check the flyer coming home in this week's communication envelope.



ON THE CALENDAR

November 18	Fall Open House
November 20	SPN Dance
November 25	Thanksgiving Holidays begin
December 4	End of First Trimester
December 6	SNP Holiday Vendor Fair
December 13	Women's Guild Cookies and Sweets Exchange

THE NEXT ISSUE

Saint Philip School Newsletter is published bi-weekly during the academic year. Our next issue is Wednesday, December 2nd. Please forward all items for the next issue to Katie Shields at embrians@comcast.net by November 30th.