



News & Notes

3155 Paulskirk Drive • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 410-461-9111 • Fax: 410-461-8621
www.resstpaul.org



October 21, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Bill and Linda Howard would like to thank all the families who donated 428 toiletry items to be distributed to the homeless in memory of their daughter. Your generosity is once again appreciated by so many!

If you are busy cleaning out your closets, please remember that the St. Vincent de Paul Society Clothing Drive is coming up. It will be held the weekend of October 24-25. The trucks will be available in the Resurrection Church parking lot before and after all Masses that weekend to collect bagged/boxed clothing.

Last Thursday afternoon, our Den 14 Webelos scouts, along with their parents and siblings, went to Annapolis to meet with State Senator Jim Robey and Delegate Guy Guzzone. They sat in the Senate legislative chamber and heard directly from the Senator and Delegate about the working of our State government and the important role of the state's citizens. Afterwards, they were given a tour of the Maryland State House and learned new and fun facts about the founding of our state and country.

On Friday, November 6th, we will have our school's annual Walk for the Homeless. All students, PreK4- grade 8, teachers and staff members will attend. We would love to have our parents join us as well. The walk will take place following the dismissal of the 10:00am mass. We will walk around the surrounding neighborhood. Since we will be leaving the school property, we need a signed permission slip for each student. We are asking each student to bring in at least a \$1.00 donation. Each January, St. Paul's Parish opens their doors and houses the homeless of Howard County for a week. This money will go directly to them to help defray some of the costs they will incur. If you would like to write a check for your donation, please make it payable to St. Paul's. The students will be treated to a free hot dog and chip lunch that day and we will have extra hot dogs for those who have joined us. The children will have milk provided with their lunch. Please send in an alternative beverage if your child does not drink milk. It is always such a memorable morning. We hope to see you there!

We are looking forward to meeting our grandparents this Friday, October 23rd. We are very aware that many of our students do not have grandparents who are living and/or live out of the area or who just simply cannot attend the morning. Please know that you may invite another adult for your child if he/she does not have grandparents who are able to make the celebration. Grandparents may enter the school and go to either the cafeteria or the library for refreshments until the students are settled in their classrooms.

Just a reminder - on days when we have inclement weather, all students who are car riders will be dismissed out of the lower level entrance, onto the parking lot. This will allow our full day preschoolers and kindergartners to be indoors longer. Our half day pre-schoolers will still depart by exiting onto the front circle on a regular school day when the weather is bad.

Passport Health will have SEASONAL Flu vaccine available beginning next week, October 26. If parents or students need seasonal Flu vaccine (shot only) they may call Passport Health, Columbia office on Little Patuxent Parkway, to schedule an appointment. Phone number is 410-727-0556.

Flu and Illness update - Thank you to all parents for providing specific student symptoms of illness when calling in an absence from school. Please continue to call in absences daily. This information is very important in determining the daily health of our school. We are happy to report that our overall absenteeism from illness has remained low and our influenza like illness numbers are also low. Since September, there have been a handful of students with confirmed Influenza A or H1N1 influenza, but the school has NOT experienced any illness outbreaks as determined by the Health Department. Will we have many students out with the Flu? More than likely, but we will let you know if absenteeism and illness rates become significant enough to change daily school operations.

Please continue to carefully monitor your student's symptoms of illness at home. If students are sick, keep them home. Take your student's temperature before they come to school. Students with influenza-like symptoms (fever of 100 degrees or higher, cough or sore throat) should remain home. Students may return to school when they are fever free without medication for 24 hours. Continue to encourage measures that are known to prevent the spread of the Flu: hand washing, hand sanitizer use, covering coughs and sneezes and discarding used tissues. Teach your student to refrain from touching the eyes, nose, and mouth. When they are available, get the flu vaccines.

Our school staff will continue to encourage cough etiquette and hand washing, sanitizing among the students. Our staff and our cleaning company are cleaning surfaces daily with appropriate disinfectants. Students are receiving instruction on hand washing and weekly morning announcements about illness prevention. The school will keep you informed of any Flu outbreak as determined by the Health Department. For updated Flu information, Flu vaccine clinic information, contact your local health department or visit www.cdc.gov.

Mrs. Bateman has received an overwhelming response to help with making the book marks that will be handed out to the parishes at mass during our Blue Ribbon celebrations weekends. Thank you for your offer to help. We are still in need of students (attired in their school uniform) to hand out book marks at all Church of the Resurrection masses the weekend on Oct 31 and November 1st and at the St. Paul masses the weekend of November 7th and 8th. You will be given 2 volunteer hours for each mass worked. If you would like to help out please email Mrs. Bateman and let her know your church and mass time. She may be reached at ybateman@resstpaul.org.

This coming Monday, October 26th, we will have a new principal for a day. Riley Fitzsimmons (current 3rd grader) will take over the administration for the day. Riley's parents won the opportunity at last years' silent auction. We are looking forward to him leading the school!

Our next Open House will take place next Wednesday, October 28th from 9:00am-11:00am. A detailed schedule may be found on the school website. No one promotes the school as well as our active and involved parents and we want to thank you for doing so! Parents who informed the school office of incoming pre-school and kindergarten siblings have been sent their applications. Parents should send their completed application to the school office to the attention of Mrs. Bateman by October 30th. On November 2nd we will open application acceptance up to new and non-parishioners on a first come-first serve basis.

Yesterday students brought home their new Blue Ribbon t-shirts. They may wear their t-shirt next Tuesday, October 26th for our first "Blue Ribbon Tuesday" which we will have once a month this school year. Students may wear their Blue Ribbon t-shirt with either jeans or school gym pants and tennis shoes. 8th graders who ordered the 8th grade class of 2010 sweatshirt received them yesterday as well. Students in 8th grade may wear this special sweatshirt in lieu of a school sweater. Students in other grades cannot substitute the PE sweatshirt (or any sweatshirt) for the school sweater.

Reminders:

- We are still collecting food for the food pantry in our foyer
- "Blue Tuesday"- next Tuesday, Oct. 27th

Coming home today:

- Permission slip for upcoming Walk for the Homeless- a permission form for each student is needed.
- Letter from the Archdiocese about Piano rental program
- Blue Ribbon week dress code information- please retain and hang on the refrigerator for handy reference- we will post on website as well
- Family Directories

In your prayers this week, please remember all those who are seriously ill and in need of God's healing presence, especially, Brother James Kelly, President of Mt. St. Joseph High School; Tom Herbert, brother in law of Valerie and uncle of Graham Bateman; and Pete Melynck, uncle of Jen Miller and great uncle of John, Carly and Amanda Miller.

Peace,

Karen Murphy
Principal